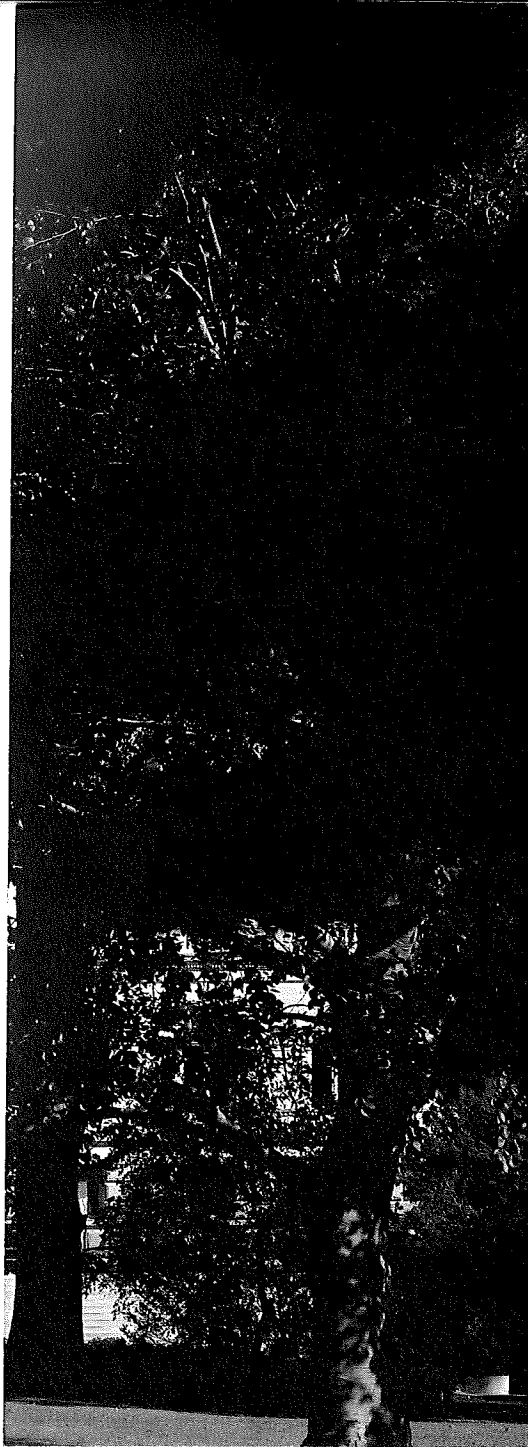


*"The connecting point between our heritage
and our future possibilities."*

JAMES H. BILLINGTON, LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS



JAMES H. BILLINGTON

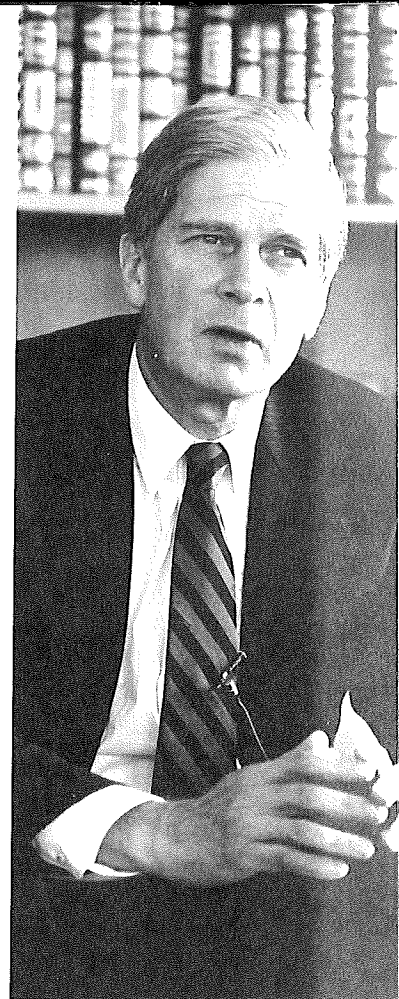
was appointed thirteenth Librarian of Congress by the President of the United States and was sworn in on September 14, 1987. An author and historian, as well as educator and administrator, Dr. Billington came to the Library from the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, which he directed for fourteen years. The quotes on the following pages were taken from his public remarks since coming to the Library.

View of the Library's Thomas Jefferson Building

"Libraries are today's living link between the record of yesterday and the possibilities of tomorrow . . . Millions everywhere benefit from these collections. The Library of Congress staff keeps them healthy for the variety of users who come here to blend memory with desire into hope: the researcher seeking truth, the artists creating beauty, and the legislator devising good policy."

"There are two general directions in which the Library of Congress should move simultaneously: out more broadly and in more deeply. Moving out means making the riches of this institution even more broadly available to ever wider circles of our multiethnic society . . . moving in more deeply means generating knowledge and distilling wisdom. These will be our objectives as we prepare to celebrate in the year 2000, the 200th birthday of the library Thomas Jefferson founded."

James H. Billington





THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS is a storehouse for knowledge and an active center for research and creativity of all kinds—the world's largest and most open library. It includes reading materials in 460 languages; the basic manuscript collections of 23 Presidents of the United States, and the papers of thousands of other figures who have shaped history; maps and atlases that have aided explorers and navigators in charting both the world and outer space; the earliest motion pictures and examples of recorded sound, as well as the latest data bases and software packages.

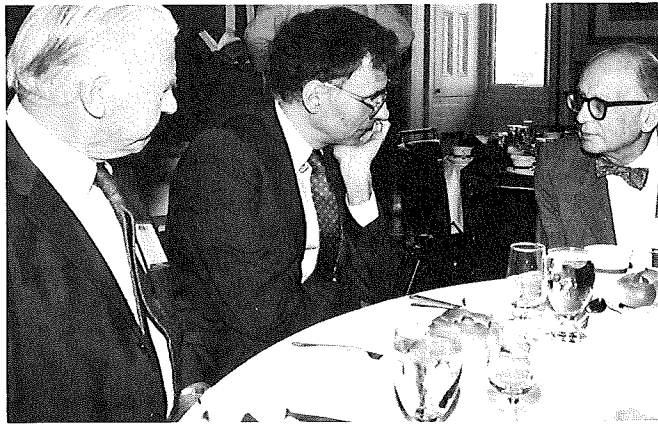
The Library serves as the basic research arm of the Congress through its Congressional Research Service, which is the largest public policy “think tank” in America and annually answers nearly a half-million inquiries from and produces some 1,000 reports for the Congress. The Library also serves the Congress and the nation through its administration of the Copyright Office, the National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, the Law Library, and its extensive, multi-lingual program of research services.

In serving the nation, the Library of Congress also:

- aids other libraries throughout the nation and the world by cataloging new publications in all languages
- works with research libraries worldwide in the exchange of information and scholarship
- applies new technology to preserve, restore, and transmit library resources
- documents ethnic heritage in its folklife archives
- advances scholarship through a Council of Scholars
- encourages reading through the Center for the Book
- documents family and regional history in its genealogy collections
- produces exhibitions, publications and public programs

The Social Sciences Reading Room
in the John Adams Building is
one of 21 Library of Congress reading rooms.

"This library must be a center of hospitality for those who create new ideas for the future as well as for those who conserve old writings from the past . . . a place to celebrate the life of the mind and its rejuvenating power for a free people."



Morris Abrams, Ralph Nader, and Librarian of Congress Emeritus Daniel J. Boorstin exchange ideas at a Council of Scholars luncheon.



Novelist John Updike with Fritz Raddatz, German journalist, novelist and biographer; Inge Feltrinelli, Italian publisher; and Heinrich Ledig-Rowohlt, German publisher and translator at the first annual Wheatland Conference on Literature at the Library of Congress.



Secretary of State George Shultz addressing a Library of Congress symposium on "Knowledge and Power."



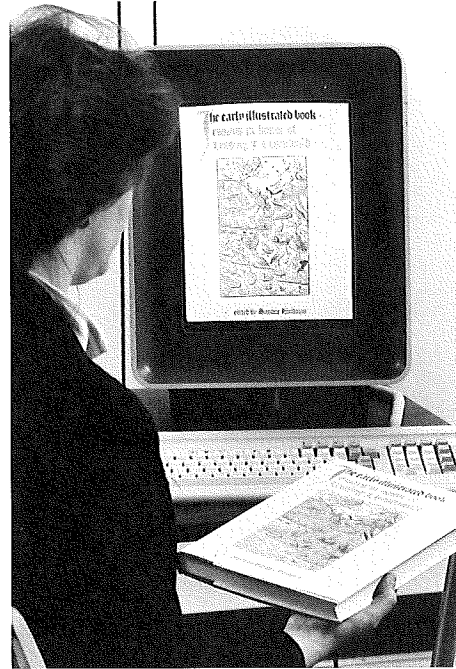
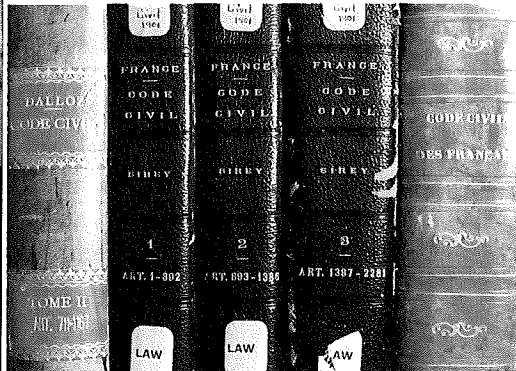
James Billington talks with Representative Lindy Boggs at a Library of Congress forum in New Orleans.



Alexander Proshkin, director of acclaimed Russian film "The Cold Summer of 1953," speaks to congressional guests in the Library's Pickford Theater. The film was one of two Russian films shown to Members of Congress in a historic film exchange.

"More than just a set of splendid facilities here in the heart of our Capital, this library is part of the American dream: a living witness to our abiding hope that each new generation will surpass the preceding one by increasing knowledge, ripening it into wisdom, and creatively applying it for human betterment."

The Library houses more than 86 million objects including formats as ancient as a Sumerian cuneiform tablet from 2040 B.C. and as modern as optical disc reproductions of color photographs from the Great Depression.



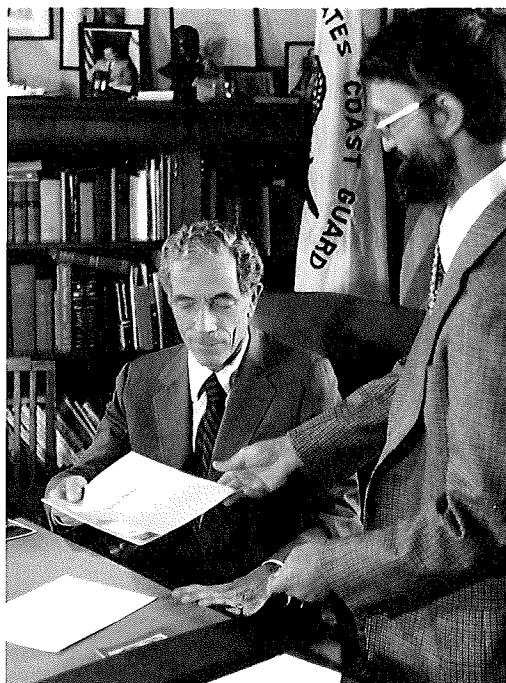
Last year the Library had more than two-and-a-half million visitors and conducted some 6,000 special tours in 26 languages.



"Uniquely among all great national libraries, this one is open to all people and collects in almost all disciplines, languages, and media of expression. Its very title bespeaks a distinctively American linkage of a library with a legislature and reflects a unique and historic determination among those who make laws for our people to be close to a place that seeks truth for all people."



The James Madison Memorial Building is the central administrative building of the Library and houses many of the Library's special multi-media collections.



Senator Claiborne Pell, Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, receives a Library of Congress report.



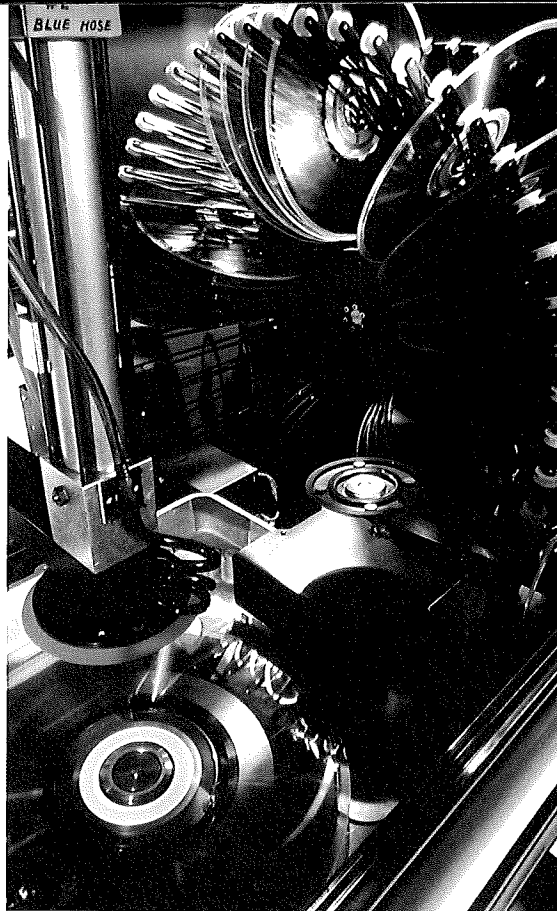
Koichiro Noda, Japanese television producer, talks with Mitsumasa Anno, internationally known illustrator of children's books, at a Library of Congress symposium on "Windows on Japan: Children, Books and Television."

"The Library serves our legislators through the Congressional Research Service, not only by preparing analyses and reports, but by making specialists available who can relate to the legislators' needs for consultation and suggestions for information sources."

"The close relationship that exists between the Library of Congress and the libraries of the world can be strengthened and also enriched. Both the quality of our civilization and the competitiveness of our economy have been strengthened by the immigration of ideas from other parts of the world; and there is no better place in the world than the Library of Congress to learn what others are thinking and doing."



The Library maintains offices in six foreign countries and exchange programs throughout the world. Foreign acquisitions and U.S. materials add some 7,000 items a day to the collections.



Optical disc machines make information readily available.

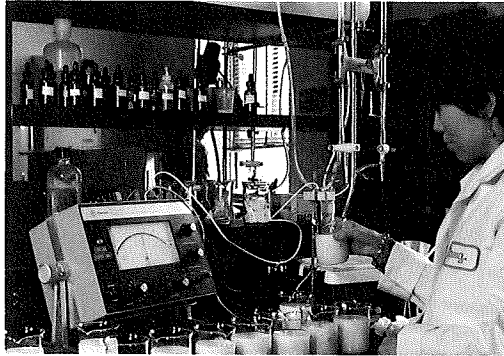
"The application of new technologies at the Library of Congress enables us to become less preoccupied with the means and freer to pursue the ends of enhancing the direct interaction between people and ideas within and beyond the Library."

The Library loses some 70,000 books a year from embrittlement. Library specialists have developed a gas deacidification process to extend the life of books. The Library also uses other techniques for preservation and conservation, as well as page by page treatment of specially valued works. Microfilm, microfiche, microforms, and micro-opaques continue to be used as well.



A rare book specialist re-binds a treasured volume in our Conservation Office.

"As far as organizing and illuminating the human mind is concerned, books have played an absolutely extraordinary role. The creation of modern democracy is inconceivable without the book. . . . I see a great future for the book in the Library's plans."



Research chemist at work in the Preservation Research and Testing Office.



In addition to the National Union Catalog, the Library provides catalog cards and other bibliographic services, such as compact discs (CD-Rom), microfiches, and machine-readable catalog (MARC) tapes.

"The Library, through the diversity of rich collections and talented staff, is well-qualified to be of assistance to the nation and the world. Through their own scholarship, staff members have exemplified creativity and leadership in a variety of fields. . . ."



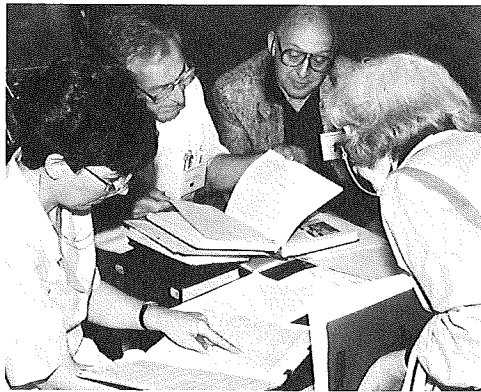
The more than 200 public events at the Library of Congress during any given year include concerts of chamber music performed by the Julliard String Quartet on Stradivari instruments from the Library's Music Division. The Library, with its literary and poetry programs, traveling exhibits, film series, folk concerts, symposia and lectures, has been called "the unquiet library."

Prize-winning photograph from a contest sponsored by the Center for the Book. There are twenty affiliated state Centers for the Book to promote reading and books throughout the nation.



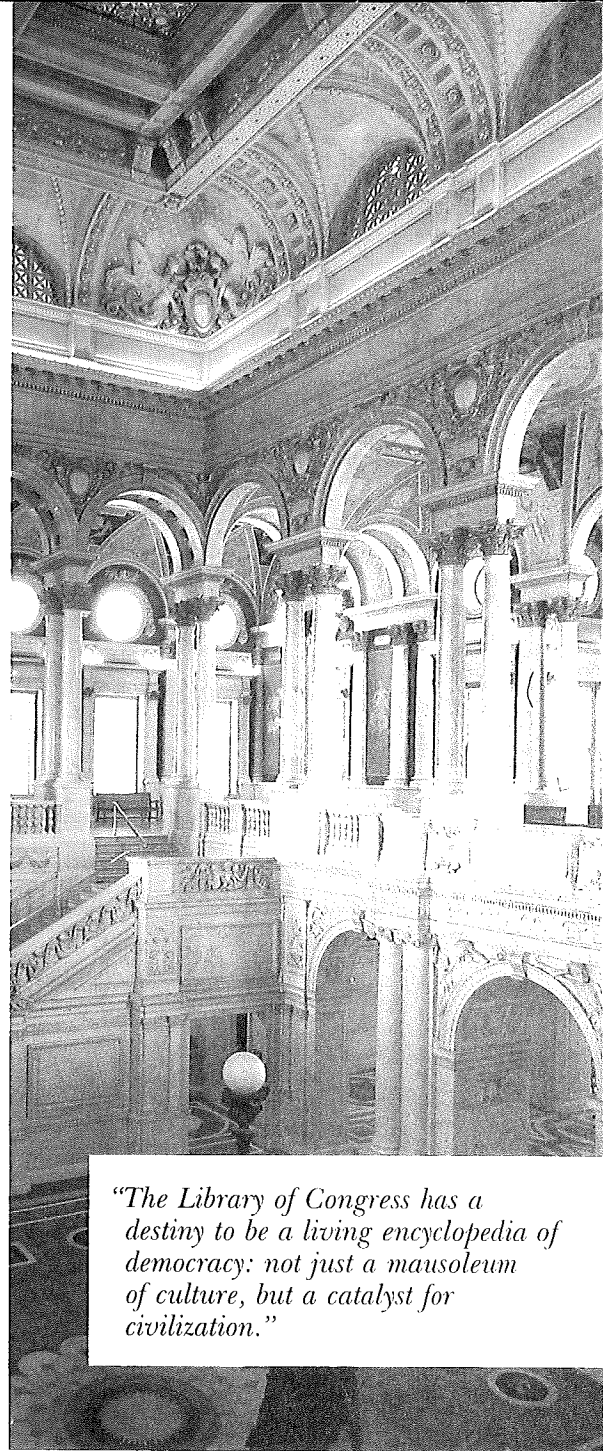
Marc Pourfait, American Library Association

"The Library of Congress is an important point of intersection between the world's most powerful democratic legislature and the world's most ambitious national educational system. We have the obligation to inform our government with the best data and scholarship, and we have the opportunity to guide our educational system to better understand our government and our world."



Intense research in the Library's Hebraic Section which is one of three sections in the African and Middle Eastern Division.

The Great Hall of the Thomas Jefferson Building.



"The Library of Congress has a destiny to be a living encyclopedia of democracy: not just a mausoleum of culture, but a catalyst for civilization."

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, founded in 1800, is housed in a three-building complex across from the nation's Capitol in Washington, D.C. The Thomas Jefferson Building, shown on the cover, was completed in 1897. Designed in Italian Renaissance style, it is elaborately decorated with sculpture, murals and mosaics. It houses the Main Reading Room used by thousands of scholars and visitors annually. The adjacent John Adams Building (1939) and the James Madison Memorial Building (1981) complete the complex.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20540
202 707 5000

All photos by LC. Photo Services unless otherwise noted.

